

CURRENT COMMENT

By FREDERIC HEATH

Mexico now has a Socialist weekly paper, El Socialista. The world moves.

Minnesota Socialists have nominated the Rev. David Morgan of St. Paul for governor. Another attack on the church!

Third Term Teddy! How unsurprising it sounds! Washington served his country by setting a good example—but then Washington was a man.

Are you doing your best for the cause of Socialism? The elections are coming on, when people are most ready to listen to us. Are you doing your best?

By a vote of 43 to 6 the national committee of the party has decided that anyone favoring direct action tactics cannot serve as a lecturer or organizer for the party.

It is only when labor, goaded to desperation, revolts, that the true horror of American wage slavery stands revealed. Lawrence tells the story, not only for Lawrence, but for the many Lawrences all over the country.

A Socialist has been elected to the national parliament of New Zealand, and this in spite of the fact that the Liberal government has passed many laws of a very radical nature. The labor, Socialist and independent members now hold the balance of power.

The provincial elections in British Columbia, which will take place next month will give the world its next big Socialist surprise, according to all the evidence. The miners have already arranged an assessment for a contribution to the campaign fund.

The Lawrence strike shows what the state militia is for, all right. No matter what capitalism pretends, it is actions that count. The state militia system, the so-called National Guard, is maintained for the purpose of suppressing labor troubles.

Remarkable news comes from the British Columbia labor movement. In the convention of the Federation of Labor just held the Socialist strength was so overwhelming that the capitalist press gauged it at 85 per cent. On a test vote only two delegates voted in opposition to Socialism.

A half way fair article on "The Rising Tide of Socialism" appears in Third Term Teddy's Outlook magazine for February. The author asked Congressman Berger, if the growth of Socialism was not due to local conditions, and reports the reply as "Yes, due to conditions local to the United States."

Buckley, Wash., has just elected a Socialist alderman. The candidate elected was J. E. James, who polled 116 votes, according to information furnished by David Howes. The race was close, as can be seen from the fact that the two Socialists who failed of election had, respectively, 110 and 103 votes in their wards.

The proposed selection of Indianapolis for the Socialist convention, instead of Oklahoma City, doesn't meet with universal approval, either. A number of letters have reached this office opposing Indianapolis on the ground that it is the scene of the dynamite investigations, and capitalism would take great delight in trying to make us appear sympathetic to McNamaramism.

When you stop to think of it, it is a remarkable thing this thing of Milwaukee being governed by the common folks. Some years ago the people would have hardly thought it possible, for they did not have the faith in the plain folks that they have today. But they got about all they wanted of the other kind of government. It was fearfully expensive, both morally and financially.

Roosevelt's "hy and for the people" isn't the same as the Socialists. The third termer is thinking of a different class of people when he says it. Some people get the idea that politics is a thing simply set up to provide jobs for politicians. On the contrary it is the people's means of saying how their country shall be governed. If we have rotten government it simply shows that a majority have consented.

Minneapolis for Socialism in 1912. Minnesota for Socialism in 1914. The United States for Socialism in 1916. The entire world for Socialism in 1918! Such is the slogan of the new Minnesota Socialist. It's a good line to howl to, at all events. And even if we do not get the entire world in 1918, we will be well pleased with the coming true of the first part of the prophecy.

Municipal scholars have been inaugurated by the Schemedaddy Socialists. This will enable poor boys to escape early entry into factory life. Ain't these Socialist chaps the bestest, though? We used to think it was

The Daily Bonds

This Week	\$88,090
Last Week	\$87,960
GAIN	\$130

SOCIALISM, THE NEXT EPOCH OF SOCIETY - By Victor L. Berger

SOCIALISM is the name of an epoch of civilization—the next epoch, if our civilization is to continue.

We must not expect that the Socialist era will come at one stroke. Neither capitalism nor feudalism arose "at a certain date," nor can the Socialist form of society have its beginning on any fixed day.

Besides, although capitalistic society has already passed its zenith, yet even at the present day feudalism holds a very important place in modern society. This is the case not only in Germany, in spite of its high economic development, but also in England, the "classic land" of capitalism.

Just so with any revolution.

Capitalism will not vanish in one day, in one year, or in one decade. Even after the triumph of the working class the commonwealth cannot take upon itself all kinds of production.

Many industries today are not concentrated, and therefore are not ripe for collective production.

However, the trusts are now showing the Social-Democrats how they must do it, only the Socialists will have to do it from a Socialist standpoint and for the benefit of all the people.

But it is not necessary nor possible that all industries should be immediately taken over by the Socialist government.

Every branch of production controlled by a trust, as well as all industries which could be conducted on a similar scale, besides railways, telegraphs, mines, etc., will of course become collective public property and will be managed by the national government.

But there is a whole class of industries (for instance farming) which are not yet ready to be worked on this large scale, or which are liable to be decentralized by the technical perfection of the methods of transmitting power. Many small industries have again become possible on account of the transmission of electric power. These without any objection can remain in private hands. I refer to certain petty industries, as well as to agriculture.

In other cases, the Socialist society can give the opportunity for the formation of co-operative associations, which together with the model industries conducted by the state, will raise the level of the working class to a degree hardly credible at the present time.

The chief reason why workingmen's co-operative associations have been impossible hitherto, has even now been partly removed by the trusts, and of course will be of still less account at the rise of the political power of the proletariat.

The trusts show how a regulated business can be done.

The management of the co-operative workingmen's association of the future will find out what the demand is and determine the amount and method of the production. During the transition period the sale of products may take place exactly as at present, only subject to regulation by the state.

In the trusts, the capitalist class even now plays the most superfluous role in the world.

Indeed, in the trusts the capitalist class is already expropriated to a certain extent.

The smaller investors, who are the great majority, no longer have anything to control, and only draw their profits. Their industries are apparently the property of the shareholders; but what sort of property is that of which one has not the free disposal? They can no longer produce what they will, nor at what price they will, nor with what workmen they will; all is prescribed to them by the management of the trust. Properly speaking, they are only profit-receivers.

The trusts are ready now for a change of ownership. But Wisconsin has been fiercely criticized for a provision in its platform to have the nation "buy out" the trusts and pay the net value. And yet Karl Kautsky, Emil Vandervelde, William Liebknecht, and even Karl Marx, speak of compensation.

Engels wrote in 1894, "We do not consider the indemnity of the proprietors as an impossibility whatever may be the circumstances. How many times has not Karl Marx expressed to me the opinion that if we could buy up the whole crowd, it would really be the cheapest way of relieving ourselves of them."

Vandervelde says: "There is no doubt that the expropriation without indemnity with the resistance, the troubles, the bloody disturbances which it would not fail to produce, would be in the end most costly."

In discussing the question of compensation, Karl Kautsky, the most radical theorist of the German Social-Democracy, says:

"There are a number of reasons which indicate that a proletarian regime will seek the road of compensation and payment of the capitalists and land owners."

In another place (on page 113) Kautsky says: "A portion of the factories, mines, etc., could be sold directly to the laborers who are working them, and could be henceforth operated co-operatively; another portion could be sold to the co-operatives of distribution, and still another to the communities or the states."

"It is clear, however, that capital would find its most extensive and generous purchaser in the state or municipalities, and for this very reason the majority of industries would pass into possession of the states and municipalities."

palities. That the Social-Democrats when they came into control would strive consciously for this solution is well understood."

Well understood? Yes, everywhere excepting in America.—

Of course, all industries of national magnitude would be carried on by the government. For smaller industries, wherever necessary, the government could make some agreement with the co-operative associations of workers. We speak of the transition period.

In this transition period, the Socialist government can of course lend the necessary capital to the co-operative societies and furnish suitable guarantees. The government in this transition period will have at its disposal quite different powers than at present. For instance, it will have a monopoly of all water power, coal mines, railroads, rivers, electrical plants, etc.

So perhaps for a time a state of affairs may arise which will combine at the same time three forms of production. That is, the capitalistic form in petty industries, where goods will be produced for the market; the co-operative form in which the products will be for use and also for sale; and the purely Socialistic, where the government will carry on production for use only, and the production will not take the form of wares at all.

That all this will take place peacefully, we do not maintain. It will surely not come peacefully if the people are not armed. It will come peacefully if the people will be armed. Riots and bloodsheds are not at all desirable, nor will they help civilization.

Besides, I do not believe that one great revolution can turn topsy-turvy the whole civilized world, and undo or make superfluous any economic development as outlined here.

Capitalism was necessary to give mankind dominion over the forces of nature, which is now assured by our scientific attainments. Considered in itself, capitalism has by no means reached that stage of development where it becomes impossible.

On the contrary, in the trust system, capitalism has just stepped into a new phase, the duration of which is unlimited according to our present light.

Of course, from a civilizing force, capitalism has already become a menace to civilization. But that does not affect its vitality! However, the tendencies which oppose it have now gathered such great strength that a thorough change—must not indeed—but can take place, if the working class understands its mission.

In conclusion, let me say that the world's history is always made by men, and is not a mere natural process as some Marxists want us to believe.

WASHINGTON News Notes

WASHINGTON, Feb. 29.—10th president and the congress were forced to take official notice of the outrage at Lawrence, by Socialist representative Berger today. As a result of a call at the White House by Berger, President Taft has ordered Attorney General Wickersham to instruct the district attorney at Lawrence to investigate the situation in that city.

Berger showed the president a copy of the New York Sun containing a graphic account of the clubbing and beating of the Lawrence strikers and their wives and children. Taft seemed shocked at the accounts, and expressed surprise that such an occurrence should have taken place. Berger pointed out to the president that the Sun was not a labor nor a Socialist paper. Taft then discussed with Berger as to the propriety of federal interference in the Lawrence matter. Berger suggested several constitutional grounds on which federal government could take action, but Taft decided to postpone his decision until he had consulted with the attorney general.

Later in the day he notified Berger that the department of justice would investigate the Lawrence situation. Chairman Henry of the rules committee has promised Berger that his committee would this week hold a hearing on the resolution introduced by the Socialist representative providing for a special congressional investigation of the Lawrence strike. Berger is making arrangements to bring strikers and other witnesses before the rules committee.

Berger also denounced the Lawrence outrages on the floor of the house this afternoon. He said, "I want to call the attention of the house to one of the most outrageous invasions of constitutional rights that ever occurred in this country. I refer to the brutal manhandling and clubbing of women and children in Lawrence, Mass., by the officials and unofficial agents of the wool trust. The waywardness of the worsted mills of Lawrence are striking against extremely low wages and inhuman conditions. While the worsted industry is one of the highly protected of all our industries, the wages paid, according to the statements given out in that city, amounted to an average of less than six dollars per week."

(By National Socialist Press)

WASHINGTON, March 3.—Political Washington is today discussing with lively interest and much wonder the action of the house in the Lawrence matter. Many cannot understand why the resolution to investigate the Lawrence strike introduced by Representative Wilson, the Democrat and chairman of the labor committee, has been turned down by the Democratic house while on the other hand Representative Berger, the only Socialist in congress, has succeeded in getting a hearing on his resolution before the committee on rules.

Represents Working Class. But the answer is plain: The capitalist house knows Wilson primarily as the representative from the fifth Pennsylvania district while Berger is recognized as the representative and spokesman of the militant working class of this country. The house, in the face of a congressional and presidential election, cannot altogether ignore a demand from a real labor representative. Hence the proposed hearing.

On Saturday morning strike leaders and other witnesses will appear before the foremost committee of the house and tell their story. The committee room will no doubt be packed with reporters and spectators. The papers will be compelled to report some of the testimony. And the members of the rules committee will also be forced to take some action on Berger's resolution.

A congressional investigation by a special committee, as provided for in Berger's resolution, should be the demand of every worker. Every member it seems!

(Continued to 84 page.)

A FINE REPORT FROM MILWAUKEE!

Comrades of the United States—Not one of you, I'm sure, but is interested in the success of the Socialist daily paper that has been started in Milwaukee, and that is doing such wonderful work for the cause in helping to hold the first big city in America to fall into the hands of the Socialists. In spite of handicaps there is good news for you all; news of success, of increasing circulation. But when the paper was started all the bonds had not been disposed of. Our Milwaukee comrades took a chance and started before all the needed money was in hand. This makes the Milwaukee situation more difficult, as you can easily believe. When you realize how vital the Milwaukee situation is, and when you realize how all the elements of 'ell in Milwaukee are combined to uproot the hold that has been secured, you cannot but be interested in seeing the bond sale completed. That it is a safe investment needs no assurance here. But the figures in the following paragraph will show better than words how all the promises that have been made are being justified. If you have a little to put out at interest, if your local or your union wishes to invest funds, there's no better opportunity—because it kills two birds with one stone. It invests the money profitably and at the same time makes it also work for the great cause. Now listen—

The Milwaukee Leader's net average daily GAIN for February, as shown by a sworn statement just made by Business Manager Bistorius, was 2,444. On February 1, the number of papers printed was 33,620, and this kept increasing each day until the press run for February 29 was 38,344. Deducting returns from dealers, spoils, etc., THE AVERAGE DAILY CIRCULATION FOR THE MONTH WAS 35,011! You have seen various big city dailies print their circulation figures, but have not been interested. But you cannot help but be interested in these figures. They concern the movement your life is wrapped up in. This big circulation represents newspapers that are taking the message of Socialism to a wide circle of people. And so you must be as anxious as all of us are to see the bond sale completed and the Milwaukee daily relieved of embarrassment during its first few months. The paper has made a fine start and is expanding, do not allow its efforts to be dwarfed and its advance thus made slower. Fill out the blank below on this page and send it in—and do it NOW!

SUBSCRIPTION FOR BONDS

MILWAUKEE SOCIAL-DEMOCRATIC PUBLISHING COMPANY
\$100,000 in Denominations of \$10.00 and \$100 Each.

I, the undersigned, do hereby agree to subscribe and pay for the amount of bonds specified, said bonds being issued by the Milwaukee Social-Democratic Publishing Company, to the Citizens' Trust Company of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, as trustee, the total of said bonds being the sum of one hundred thousand (\$100,000) dollars; bearing interest at the rate of four (4) per cent per annum, payable semi-annually.

The bonds were issued and bear interest from December 1, 1911, and are secured by a first mortgage on the goods, property and chattels of said company, which are particularly described in the mortgage.

In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this _____ day of _____, A. D. 1912.

Name _____ (Seal)

Number of Bonds _____

Amount of Bonds _____ Address _____

Enclosed find remittance of \$ _____ in payment for the above.

Bonds may be paid in full, or they may be paid in monthly installments of \$2.50 for each bond subscribed for.



What Capitalism Has Done to US!

ACROSS THE POND

GERMANY.—The Social-Democratic party in the reichstag have appointed comrades Scheidemann, D. Frank, Ledebour, and Dr. David to speak on the budget. They have further decided to introduce an interpellation urging the government to suspend the taxes on potatoes, and also on the barley and maize used for fodder. Bock and Antick will speak on this question. They will also bring forward a motion to reform the standing orders of the reichstag, and a number of other motions, such as: Responsibility of ministers, alteration of the constitution so that the consent of the reichstag shall be necessary in order to declare war, motion for the introduction of the proportional system of election, women's suffrage, for elections to take place on Sunday, etc. Motions on social reform are being prepared by a committee of 21 members.

The election of the president and vice presidents for the reichstag constituted a matter of some difficulty. Though the Social-Democrats as the strongest party in the house, have a claim to the presidency, they began by renouncing it in favor of the national liberals, and claiming only the office of first vice president. The right wing of the national liberals, however, refused to vote for the Social-Democrats as first vice president, thus making that arrangement impracticable. Then an attempt was made to fill the presidency from the ranks of the Radicals, the right and the National Liberals, leaving the Social-Democrats out. But the Radicals refused to have anything to do with a presidency from which the Social-Democrats were excluded. Negotiations were then entered into between the party leaders. The center and some of the National Liberals demanded that a Socialist president should be ready to raise the end of the Reichstag, and that the other Social-Democrats should be present during this function, both of which our comrades absolutely refused, though they declared themselves ready to fulfill any of the necessary duties of president. Meanwhile, the Blue-Black brethren

had come to an agreement between themselves to put up Spahn (Center) as Freiherr von Hertling had dropped out of the ranks of possible candidates by reason of his appointment as minister president of Bavaria. Thereupon, our comrades put up Bebel as candidate for the presidency, and Scheidemann for the first vice presidency. The result, after three ballots, was the election of Spahn by 196 votes, Bebel polling 175. Comrade Scheidemann was then declared elected as first vice president by 188 votes against the reactionary, Dr. Dietrich, Herr Paasche (National Liberal) was then elected second vice president.

The following day Herr Spahn sent in his resignation, and Herr Paasche has now also resigned.

TURKEY.—In the recently dissolved Turkish parliament there were seven Socialists, six being Armenians of the Dachnakutun and the Hentschak, and one a Bulgarian, Comrade Vlakov from Salonica. As the latter now informs us in the paper, "The Young Turk" these three, the two Armenian groups and the Socialist Labor league of Salonica, have taken steps to draw up a common program, founded on the programs of the groups and the decisions of their congresses. There can be no question, he says, of joining with any of the Young Turkish factions, the Liberal union, or the Committee of Union and Progress.—Justice, London.

RUSSIA.—A political trial of gigantic dimensions is at present in progress at St. Petersburg. It is directed against Dachnakutun, the social-revolutionary organization of Armenia. 150 members of which are in the dock. 700 persons were originally arrested, about a quarter of whom have been in prison for three years in the unhealthy cells of Tiflis. Many have perished, and many others are suffering from consumption and other diseases, among them being the world-famous poet of modern Armenia, Aharonian. He was subsequently released on bail. Probably most of the accused will be sent to Siberia.

As Seen by a Traveling Agitator

By Silas Hood

(Written for The Herald.)

Poor Houses Amidst Plenty.

Kansas easily has productive power to feed 200 times its population. And I found poor houses in the ten counties I visited, and learned that every county has the disgraceful evidence of the exploitation of the industries in the shape of public institutions of charity.

Twentieth Century Implements Missing.

Nine-tenths of the farm land in Kansas is level and splendidly adapted for the use of traction plows that will turn over the soil at the rate of 70 acres a day. But on the broad prairies in the vicinity of Garden City, Lyons, Nickerson, Great Bend, Emporia and other fertile farming sections I found farmers plugging along with plows that belong in the scrap heap on such level country.

Potatoes Come High.

The cost of potatoes in Kansas this winter in the vicinity of Lyons are \$1.25 a bushel. In Topeka the price is higher. Seed potatoes are selling for \$2.25 a bushel. And in North and South Dakota, not so many hundred miles away the farmers are feeding the finest kind of potatoes to the stock, because "there is no market for them."

Shacks for the Industrious.

There are more homes—a hundred to one—in Kansas that are not fit to live in, to those that could be called shacks for human habitation. These homes I found in the cities as well as in the country. There was an absence of bath-tubs in the great majority of the homes. And the bath-tub is an institution 6,000 years old, and the farmers and other workers in Kansas have produced billions of dollars more wealth than they received for their industry. Well, they haven't got much of a kick coming for they are getting what they voted for. And the capitalists can stand it as long as they can.

Produce Things—But—

The roosters lay eggs in Kansas I was told before I reached the state. But it isn't so. The roosters not only do not lay eggs in Kansas, but the hens do not either. I saw only one hen that laid a single egg. But Kansas produces corn, wheat, alfalfa and other things too numerous to list, and it also produces farms with mortgages on them. That is one thing the Kansas farmer can boast. North Dakota, Minnesota, and Illinois has nothing on him when it comes to mortgages. Again we repeat: "That's what they voted for" and if they don't like it all they have got to do is to say so next November.

Roosevelt Farmers.

Kansas farmers who are the loudest mouthed admirers of Roosevelt, I learned, were in the majority of cases, either renters or owners of farms heavily mortgaged. It is the "progressive" farmers who are shouting for Teddy! And when you ask them what T. R. ever did for them they stutter and sputter and try to end the discussion by saying that they "are satisfied with their condition in life." And yet some stupified people say there is danger of Socialism "coming too soon." Well it can't come too soon for the families of these "successful" Roosevelt farmers.

Salvation vs. Poverty.

At Ottawa, Kan., I learned that two brothers who were conducting the Men's Religious Forward movement were being paid \$1,200, for three weeks' "work." And the leading business men of Ottawa had guaranteed to pay the brothers the \$400.00 weekly assessment—or all of that part of the amount which the audience did not contribute in the collection. And I also learned that the nightly collections from the crowd were so large that the "leading citizens" didn't have to part with a dollar. The people were paying for their salvation with a vengeance while the contributions to care for Ottawa's worthy poor were so slim that many were on the verge of starvation during January and February.

Scab Vote With Their Masters.

Railroad men employed on the Santa Fe system, along the line in Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Kansas, I learned were not well informed on the industrial problems when their knowl-

edge was compared with that of the conductors, brakemen, firemen, and others on the Great Northern and the Northern Pacific. The Santa Fe men are not organized. The Santa Fe is known as a scab line. Draw your own conclusions. There are exceptions of course.

Kentucky Democrats Out West.

"Are there any Socialists in the crew on this train?" I asked of a brakeman.

"No, sir," he replied.

"Then I am a Kentucky Democrat."

"What is the difference between a Kentucky Democrat and a Kentucky Republican?" I inquired.

He couldn't answer the query and didn't attempt it. He volunteered the remark however, that he was going to vote for the Democrats.

"I believe he was a liar for I am of the opinion that the Santa Fe is not paying unorganized workers \$175 a month for performing a brakeman's duties. But I didn't tell him so, as I could not prove my suspicions. He asked me if I knew the difference between a Kentucky Democrat and a Kentucky Republican."

"There is no difference," was my reply. "Two links of sausage from the same hump." This is not original. I don't know where I stole it.

I informed that brakeman that many men that didn't work at all were getting \$175 a day as their share of the railroad earnings and if he approved of that there was a reason of his voting for the old party ticket. He bought a copy of "Socialism Made Plain" and as people who buy things endeavor to get their money's worth there is reason to suspect that at least one Kentucky Democrat will know better next time.

man on one of the passenger trains running on the Santa Fe, between Las Vegas and Albuquerque, N. M.

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Wisconsin

The party has increased its vote in Duluth by more than 600 per cent over that of two years ago, when R. Rounge, candidate for mayor received 252 votes. J. A. Johnson, the choice of the party this year, having polled 1,783.

Last year the party had an organizer at work in the city constantly. To that and the systematic distribution of literature, is accredited the great increase of the vote.

The Duluth Herald, an old party organ, in speaking of the election of Alderman Phillips, said: "For the first time in the history of Duluth there has been elected a Socialist alderman, who is a live wire and a public-spirited citizen, and who will doubtless give a good account of himself."

SUPERIOR, Wis., Feb. 29.—Sunday the Superior local of the Social-Democratic party met at Union Labor hall to observe "woman's day." The meeting was largely attended and among those present were a few members of the Douglas County Suffrage society, including Miss Florence Two. Two was the first speaker and in opening her address said: "We recognize that when we are among the Socialists we are with friends." She spoke of the woman's efforts for political equality, in a general way, giving good and sufficient reasons why woman should be given the ballot, and answering some of the arguments of those opposed to it.

FOND DU LAC, Wis., Feb. 28.—As a result of a referendum vote taken by the Social-Democrats of this county, the constitution and bylaws drawn up at the last county convention for a

county organization were approved and adopted. Delegates from the towns in the county were elected to a central county committee. The central county committee met for the first time Sunday afternoon and organized by the election of the following officers for the year:

Secretary, John Justen, Fond du Lac; treasurer, J. B. Fellrath, Fond du Lac; county organizer, Charles Hiltz, Campbellsport; executive committee, E. C. Damrow, Mrs. J. B. Fellrath, John Justen and J. B. Fellrath.

The central committee will act entirely along educational lines and in case any important matter should come up it will be necessary to refer it to the party for a referendum vote.

INDIANA.

Still another local has been organized at Versailles in Ripley county which starts with 11 members. The local is the result of the effort of local Ogden to organize the county. A few more towns in the county offer good prospects for local work.

Local work in Kosciusko county expired early last year, but the approaching campaign has stimulated the Socialists there to revive the local and it now starts with 16 members. The local is the result of the effort of local Ogden to organize the county. A few more towns in the county offer good prospects for local work.

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